Appointments to Board of Naval-Army Group Insurance Fund Scheme

4462. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA :
SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some publicmen are appointed as Directors on the Board of Naval Army Group Insurance Fund Scheme ; if so, what is the criteria for such appointments/selections;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Shri Ajit Haksar, former Chairman, M/s ITC Ltd., a leading cigarette manufacturing company in the country, is one of the Directors of the said Board ;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware that most of the excise duty evasion cases against ITC involving crores of rupees were detected during his tenure as Chairman ITC ; and

(d) if so, what are the consideration which weighed with Government to overlook these facts and to appoint him as Director on the Board of Naval Army Group Insurance Fund Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) No publicmen are appointed on the Board of Governors of the Army Group Insurance Fund Scheme or the Naval Group Insurance Scheme.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Weapons Imported by Nepal from China

4463. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governmet are aware that Nepal has imported huge quantity of weapons from China very recently, which includes A.K.-47 rifles, rockets and antiaircraft guns ;

(b) if so, wether Government have information that these weapons are being supplied to army posts on the Indo-Nepal border ;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto and whether Government have taken up the matter with the Nepal Government, if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(d) whether the Minister of State for External Affairs has discussed the issue with the Nepalese authorities on his recent visit there, if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Government are aware of imports of arms by Nepal From China.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arisee.

(d) During the recent visit to Nepal of the Minister of State for External Affairs, a number of issues were discussed, including aspects relating to security.

Indo-China Border Talks

4464, SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that both India and China had a number of talks in regard to border settlement between the two countries ;

(b) if so, the number of meetings held after May 18, 1988 between the two countries and to what extent the differences have been narrowed down ; and

(c) whether any concrete formulae have been reached for a settlement ; if not, at what stage the matter rests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Eight rounds of official-level talks have been held so far between India and China to discuss subjects of mutual concern, including the boundary question.

(b) No official talks have been held to discuss the boundary question since the Eights Round of November, 1987.

(c) Both India and China are agreed that a settlement of the boundary question should be arrived at through peaceful negotiations and that, meanwhile, Peace and tranquility should be maintained all along the border.

Indo-Pak talks on Afghan Situation

4465. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan made efforts in dispelling misunderstanding of each other's perceptions towards a solution in the Afghan problem ;

(b) is so, whether Pakistan and Indian delegations met at Islamabad during May, 1988 ; and

(c) if so, to what extent India's efforts to dispel Pak fears and misunderstanding had been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While Pakistani leaders have said they could understand Indian concerns, they have also been critical of India's policy.

Government Employees sent for Training Abroad

4466. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the number of Government employees of various Ministries/Departments as well as autonomos body organisations, who were sent abroad for training purposes and were in the age-group of (i) 31-40; (ii) 41-50; and (iii) 51-60 (age-group-wise and office-wise) ; and what was the amounts spent as on 31st March, 1988 on this account;

(b) whether Government are aware that in majority of cases the employees sent were above 50 years and even after training they serve not more than five to six years ; if so, what are the reasons that the Government do not send employees for training from the age group of 31-40 in the first instance and then from the age group of 41-50 only, who can serve the Government for more than 10 to 15 years after such training ; and

(c) whether Government propose to encourage the age groups of 31-40 and 41-50 in this respect in the near future and put a ban on age group 51-60 for the said purpose of training abroad ; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The information sought is not centrally